

PROTEST

OF THE

City of Amsterdam,

In Opposition to

The States of Holland:

Who Pretend to raise 16000 New Levies, by Plurality of Voices,

CONTRARY TO

The Immunities and Priviledges

Granted Them

By *MART* Countess of *HOLLAND*,

BEING

A MANIFEST VIOLATION

OF THEIR

Undoubted Liberties.

THE Burgomasters and Council of *Amsterdam*, being informed by their Deputies belonging to the Assembly of the States Provincial, that the 3th of *January* last, by Plurality of Voices, notwithstanding their Deputies Opposition; The said States Provincial had formed a pretended Conclusion, as if that Province had consented to the Raising of 16000 Men; are Necessitated to declare against such Irregularities, both in matter and form, having often declared the contrary, and shewn Reasons for their Dissent; Alledging it better to Obtain a speedy Accommodation between *France* and *Spain*, for the Repose of *Europe*: especially, Considering the most *Pagan* Enemy Advancing to revenge the Affronts of the last Campaign, and that the raising of new Levies can no ways Facilitate an Accord between the two Crowns; but rather be a Means to cause His *Catholick* Majesty to rely the more thereupon, and his most *Christian* Majesty to be Exasperated, and thereby not only engage the States General, and by Consequence, *England*, into a most bloody War.

A

Tha_t

That they were refused a Conference, *May 15. 1683*; although they had declared their Intentions, not only to the Court of *Spain*; but also, to the House of *Austria*, that the States Provincial proceed to a Conclusion without any regard to the Fundamental design of the Government, conformable to which all the Antient Mazerines and Customs in the time of the Earls Government, were with the greatest Zeal put in Execution against such as Infringed the same.

And among the Resolutions of the States Provincial, *March 11. 1681*. It was Concluded, That no Member whether of the Nobility or Gentry, should be Concluded by a Plurality of Voices against their Wills, in Matters of concern to the Rights and Priviledges Confirmed to *Holland* in the time of the Earls Government.

But, by raising of New Levies; thus, the lesser Number will stand equal with the greater; especially, in matters of Taxes, which always was by their Predecessors lookt upon to be a thing of so great Importance, that they could never be persuaded to admit thereof, though in the greatest danger of this Republick, and Concurrence of two Thirds of the States in the same.

They also declared that they could not hold their Sessions in that Honourable Assembly, if they might not remain Unmolested in their Antient Liberty, and have an Intire Freedom, to consent or not, in matters of Taxes, upon which the Welfare of their Cities depended, and of which none but themselves could be Competent Judges, and if Plurality of Voices could carry it, it was the only way to ruine them.

Upon Conclusion, in the year 1681. 'twas Corroborated by a Declaration of all the Members of the States, the second and third of *October 1671*. That it was not in the Power of a Plurality of Voices (with Right) to conclude a matter where the Plurality of Voices cannot take place, which if they should allow, it would Alter and Subvert the Fundamental Constitution of the Government, and thereby raise Taxes at their Pleasure, which not in the least is to be Admitted.

For which Reasons, the prelent Burgo-Masters and Council, Declare the aforesaid Conclusion, of the Provincial State, to be Null and Void; and Declares, That they will Adhere to this Sentiment, and not Contribute any thing towards the Charge of the said Levies, of 16000.

Done in the Council of AMSTERDAM,
this 26th of *March, 1684*

An Historical Account of the Life and Actions of the Invincible and Victorious Prince, *John the Third*, the present King of *Poland*, in Twelves, Price Bound One Shilling.

LONDON: Printed for *Thomas Malibus*, at the
Sun in the *Poultrey*. 1684.